

The Role of National-Cultural Centers in Ensuring Peace (Social-Philosophical Analysis)

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ABSTRACT

It is shown that national-cultural centers are public organizations that serve to satisfy the national cultural needs of representatives of a particular nationality living in Uzbekistan. It is studied that by opening their own cultural centers, representatives of different nationalities living in our country have the opportunity to preserve the cultural heritage of their nation, which has been passed down from generation to generation for centuries, and to inform representatives of other nationalities about it. The role and importance of national-cultural centers in ensuring peace is also highlighted and a philosophical analysis is made.

Keywords: Cultural Centers; Interethnic Relations; Friendly Relations; Friendship Societies; Religious Tolerance; Homeland; National Traditions; Cultural Heritage.

1. Introduction

In the modern world, where diversity is both a source of wealth and a potential source of tension, national cultural centers play an important role in promoting peace in societies. From a philosophical point of view, their mission goes beyond mere cultural representation - they serve as a platform for the development of a collective identity based on dialogue, mutual understanding and respect, and coexistence. At the heart of this lies the philosophical concept of identity. Each individual and group seeks to recognize their cultural heritage. National cultural centers help to preserve and express this identity within a broader national context, preventing alienation and marginalization. Moreover, from the point of view of the philosophy of the community, peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but the active participation of society and the presence of common moral values.

2. Research Methodology

In the socio-philosophical analysis of the role of national-cultural centers in ensuring peace, the following methods of scientific knowledge were used: analysis and synthesis, retrospective analysis, comparative analysis, generalization, dialectical method, and synergetic.

3. Results and Discussions

National cultural centers contribute to this by organizing educational, artistic, interethnic events that build bridges between different cultural groups. The existence of these centers also touches on the principle of tolerance, which is a fundamental value of the philosophy of liberalism. National-cultural centers educate citizens in the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence by representing different traditions and worldviews. In a globalizing world, where homogenization often threatens cultural identity, these institutions are pillars of cultural preservation and intercultural dialogue. Through their activities, they help build a "dialogical society".

“National cultural centers are public organizations that serve to meet the national cultural needs of representatives of a particular nationality living in Uzbekistan” [1]. Philosophically, these centers embody the concept of pluralism

- the idea that a healthy society includes and respects diverse ways of life. In a pluralistic society like Uzbekistan, national cultural centers not only protect the identities of minorities, but also serve as a bridge between different cultural groups, promoting dialogue, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The existence of such institutions affirms the right to cultural self-expression and recognizes that diversity is not a threat to national unity, but a source of wealth and strength. In addition, the centers can be seen as a manifestation of moral responsibility in a multicultural society. By supporting the preservation of culture, the state and society undertake a commitment to justice, inclusion and historical continuity - this ensures that no group is eliminated or marginalized.

Today, the activities of the following national and cultural centers in Uzbekistan are noteworthy [2].

Table 1. National Cultural Centers

Name of National Cultural Centers	Establishment
“Svetlitsa Polska” Polish Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	1989
Jewish National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	1989
Uzbek Uyghur Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	1989
Tashkent Bashkir Social and Cultural Center named after Zaki Validi	1990
Tashkent Dungan Cultural Center	1990
“Wiedergeburt” German Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	1990
Tashkent Tatar Socio-Cultural and Educational Center	1990
Arab National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	1991
Kyrgyz National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	1991
Association of Korean Cultural Centers of Uzbekistan	1991
Kazakh National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	1992
Tashkent Lithuanian Cultural Society	1992
Tashkent Belarusian Cultural Center “Svitanak”	1993
Uzbek Russian Cultural Center	1994
Tashkent Georgian Cultural Center “Megobroba”	1994
Uzbek Turkish National Cultural Center “Axiskha”	1997
Tashkent Greek Cultural Society	1997
Tashkent Crimean Tatar National Cultural Center “Avdet”	1997
Tashkent Bulgarian Cultural Center	1999
“Slavutich” Republican Ukrainian Cultural Center	2001
Republican Turkmen Cultural Center	2001
Tashkent Chinese Cultural Center	2001
Armenian National Cultural Center of Uzbekistan	2001
Association of National Cultural Centers of Azerbaijan	2003
Tajik National Cultural Center of the Republic	2008

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 5046 dated May 19, 2017 “On measures to further improve interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries”, the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established on the basis of the Republican International Cultural Center and friendship societies [3].

The establishment of this Committee represents a strategic and philosophical shift towards a more institutionalized and comprehensive approach to managing interethnic relations. It reflects the Government of Uzbekistan’s recognition of the importance of peaceful coexistence, cultural diversity, and international friendship as core values of a stable, inclusive society.

This move is also consistent with the philosophical principle of communitarianism, which emphasizes the role of community, tradition, and shared identity in individual well-being and social cohesion. By supporting structures that foster cultural dialogue and international goodwill, the state underscores its moral commitment to inclusiveness, mutual respect, and global citizenship.

Today, the committee is implementing the following strategic tasks to ensure unity and harmony among representatives of different nationalities in Uzbekistan, and to further strengthen friendly relations:

Firstly, the state policy aimed at ensuring interethnic harmony and religious tolerance in Uzbekistan focuses on uniting all citizens living in Uzbekistan around the idea of a single homeland, educating them in national and universal values. to educate in the spirit of loyalty;

Secondly, to establish friendly relations with foreign countries, to establish mutually beneficial cooperation with them, to maintain friendly relations with our compatriots studying, working and living abroad;

Thirdly, to ensure the creation of conditions for the development of national traditions, values and art of representatives of various nationalities and ethnic groups living in our homeland;

Fourthly, to carry out scientific research activities that will help to further improve the relations of harmony and solidarity between nations.

Strengthened by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the International Cultural Center of the Republic” [4] dated January 13, 1992.

Firstly, to create and support all necessary conditions for the coordination of the activities of national and cultural centers of our country;

Secondly, to create an atmosphere of tolerance for the customs, traditions and values of representatives of different nationalities living in our country;

Thirdly, to establish broad cooperative relations between cultural centers in foreign countries and our national and cultural centers;

Fourth, to preserve and bring to a new level the atmosphere of unity and interethnic harmony that exists in our country.

Based on these priority strategic tasks, national and cultural centers serve to create opportunities for representatives of different nationalities in our country to live in unity, to create opportunities for friendship and mutual cooperation in various fields.

Studying the activities of national-cultural centers, we note that their activities are carried out in three directions:

Firstly, activities in the field of establishing spiritual, educational and social cooperation with the historical homeland and Uzbekistan, while preserving the national language, mentality, cultural heritage and values of each nation;

Secondly, the activity in the field of forming a sense of civic responsibility and loyal service to representatives of each nation in determining the path of development of our country;

Thirdly, the activity in the field of creating opportunities for the implementation of the historical and philosophical heritage of various nations that are establishing their activities in every aspect of our society.

The three most important areas mentioned above are bringing the work on interethnic relations to a promising stage. The philosophical content of the activities of the existing national cultural centers is as follows:

Firstly, national cultural centers play an important role in promoting the national culture, values, history and philosophy of all nationalities in the republic;

Secondly, they help to teach and preserve examples of national dance, music, painting and folk applied art that reflect the nationality of each people;

Thirdly, it organizes creative exhibitions dedicated to the life and scientific work of scientists and cultural figures of different nationalities, including artists, writers and poets, cultural, artistic and political figures;

Fourthly, it organizes cultural meetings with visiting statesmen from their historical homeland and establishes intercultural dialogue.

Philosophically, the existence and support of such centers reflects a deep commitment to cultural pluralism, human dignity, and social cohesion. Since people are deeply embedded in cultural contexts, their language, traditions, and collective memory form a fundamental part of their identity. National cultural centers recognize this by providing communities with opportunities to preserve their cultural heritage and contribute to the broader social fabric of Uzbekistan. Furthermore, supporting such institutions is a manifestation of the state's moral responsibility to ensure justice and equality in a multi-ethnic society. Rather than seeing diversity as a challenge, Uzbekistan has taken a philosophical and policy-based position that cultural diversity is a source of strength and unity. These centers not only preserve heritage, but also serve as a platform for intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding, and mutual respect, which are the foundations for a just and harmonious society. "True internationalism consists not only in a deep understanding of the national, territorial interests of the republic, but also requires the full use of the opportunities of all regions of our country in order to fulfill the tasks of national renewal" [5]. This view of internationalism is based on a philosophy that connects the local with the global—recognizing that meaningful international cooperation must be based on a strong, equitable, and cohesive national foundation. In this sense, true

internationalism reflects a balanced synthesis of patriotism and global solidarity, where national development is combined with openness to intercultural dialogue and transnational cooperation.

“By opening their own cultural centers, representatives of different nationalities living in our country have been created the opportunity to preserve the cultural heritage of their nation, which has been passed down from generation to generation for centuries, and to inform representatives of other nationalities about it” [6].

The preservation of cultural identity is a fundamental human right and an essential component of social justice in a multicultural society. The ability to freely and respectfully express one's culture contributes to the self-realization of individuals and the mutual enrichment of society as a whole. Furthermore, these centers play a crucial role in promoting social cohesion, as they foster understanding, tolerance and respect between different cultural groups. In this way, they contribute to the development of a society built not on uniformity, but on the respectful coexistence of diverse identities.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

In short, national cultural centers play a crucial role in maintaining peace and strengthening social harmony in multicultural societies. From a socio-philosophical perspective, these centers are not only a platform for preserving the cultural identity, language and traditions of different ethnic groups, but also an important space for dialogue, mutual understanding and the development of interethnic cooperation. By promoting respect for cultural diversity and creating opportunities for intercultural exchange, national cultural centers contribute to building a tolerant and inclusive society. They help reduce ethnic tensions and stereotypes by creating awareness of the values, traditions and history of different communities. This, in turn, strengthens social cohesion and supports peaceful coexistence. In addition, these centers promote civic engagement, cultural education and public participation, which are essential for democratic development and conflict prevention. Their activities can serve as a practical tool for peacebuilding, as they encourage solidarity, empathy and shared responsibility among citizens. National cultural centers embody the values of cultural pluralism and human dignity, contributing to social stability, unity and sustainable peace.

Declarations

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Consent for publication

The author declares that he/she consented to the publication of this study.

Authors' contributions

Author's independent contribution.

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